

Sen. Bye, Rep. Willis, Sen. Boucher, Rep. LeGeyt, Sen. Cassano, Rep. Haddad, and other members of the committee:

This testimony is in regard to SB 844, “AN ACT IMPLEMENTING THE BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE GOVERNOR CONCERNING HIGHER EDUCATION.” My testimony reflects both the views of myself as well as those held by many of my fellow students at Quinebaug Valley Community College. The purpose of this testimony is to share with the members of the committee the concerns many students have with Governor Malloy’s recommended cuts to higher education, specifically regarding cuts to our states universities and community colleges.

In the past two years, \$93 million dollars have been cut from the state university system.¹ However, cuts in funding are not our only concern. Students are increasingly being forced to pay more as tuition continues to rise with every passing year.² Over the past five years, tuition has increased, on average, by 4.9% for students enrolled in either a state university or a community college.³ This is extremely worrisome as it comes at a time when many students are already struggling to make tuition payments each semester.

Prior to this semester, I was unaware of the devastating impact that cuts in state funding have on students. The \$93 million dollars that has been cut directly hurts the student experience on QVCC’s campuses.⁴ As a direct result of budget cuts, students face reduced access to the resources they need to be successful in their college endeavors. Many students face the harsh reality of not being able to graduate on time because a class they needed was dropped due to a lack of funding. When students do not have the resources they need to be successful now, they should not be asked to pay more for even less.

I thank you for your time and the opportunity to voice the concerns of many. I strongly urge you to consider the implications of Governor Malloy’s proposed budget for the 96,000 students across Connecticut enrolled in the state universities and community colleges.⁵

Sincerely,

John Farrar

Student Government Association: Quinebaug Valley Community College

Alternate Representative: Student Advisory Committee to the Connecticut Board of Regents of Higher Education.

¹ CT Mirror <http://www.ctmirror.org/>

² William Bows CFO BOR SAC Presentation

³ William Bows CFO BOR SAC Presentation

⁴ CT Mirror <http://www.ctmirror.org/>

⁵ CT Board of Regents. <http://www.ct.edu/about/stat>